

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS FOR THE PARISH OF EARNLEY**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at Bracklesham Barn  
which commenced at 19.00**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Keith Martin (Chairman), Robert Carey (Vice Chairman), John Stant and John Williams.

**In attendance:** Mrs Louise Chater (Clerk to Earnley Parish Council), County Councillor Pieter Montyn, 15 registered electors and 2 members of the public.

### **1. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019**

On a proposal by Mr Robert Carey, it was RESOLVED to agree and sign the minutes; this was duly completed.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Sandy Simpson - personal

### **3. REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR KEITH MARTIN**

The Chairman reminded those present that in 2015 the Parish Council carried out a survey which has advised the Parish Plan objectives which guides the parish council on the actions required.

Objective One: To ensure that people drive within the speed limits within Earnley Parish.

As part of the discussions with the developers of the Clappers Lane development the Parish Council obtained funding in the sum of £22,000 which is held by West Sussex County Council to provide road safety improvements in the conservation area. The Parish Council have been in discussions with West Sussex County Council with regard to a Speed Indicator device, Village Gateways and planters on the traffic island in the centre of Earnley. Volunteers will be needed to assist the Parish Council with the speed indicator and the village planters.

Objective Two: To support appropriate housing development and land use in Earnley and to object to inappropriate housing development and land use.

The Parish Council have submitted comments to Chichester District Council with regard to the Holdens Caravan Site, Bracklesham Lane, expressing concern with regard to the flood risk as the field slopes from Bracklesham Lane towards Bookers Lane.

Southdowns Bracklesham Lane the Parish Council was not able to prevent this development, however, following discussions with the developer the council was successful in having the exit into Clappers Lane removed and the housing density reduced.

Medmerry Holiday Village have recently submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment, the Parish Council is supportive of the holiday village as a key tourist activity in the parish. However, the large number of vehicle movements associated with the application has caused significant concern.

Objective Three: To work toward the best possible flood risk reduction within Earnley Parish.

In excess of £600,000 has been spent on Flood Alleviation in the parish and the work is ongoing. The Parish Council supports the activities of the Birdham and Earnley Flood Prevention Group, which has led to the improvements on the Grange Rife and the Earnley Rife. The group needs volunteers to help with ditch clearance and inspection.

Objective Four: To encourage the provision of transport links that meet the needs of the residents.

There is very little the Parish Council can do on its own however, the Parish Council has encouraged developers to include cycle paths which are gradually providing a connected route from Medmerry Nature Reserve through to West Wittering.

The Parish Council pressed ASDA to encourage funding for bus route 150 which is poorly used, unfortunately this was not successful and West Sussex County Council has recently announced that it has withdrawn its funding for this route.

Objective Five: To encourage community involvement and establish community volunteer groups within all areas of Earnley Parish.

Recent events have included litter picking, Christmas foodbank collection and the airfield memorial commemorative event. The Council is currently investigating a new site for a fete in the Summer but again we will need volunteers to enable this event to take place.

Objective Six: To investigate the possibility of creating a parish focal point or village hall.

The Gate House has been identified as a positive building in the Earnley Conservation Area Plan, therefore, it is rather disappointing that the developers who represent the new owners of the Concourse (Summix ECC Ltd) are currently planning to knock this building down.

Objective Seven: To liaise with the owners of Earnley Concourse to encourage the most appropriate use of the site.

The Parish Council has previously met with the developer's representatives but unfortunately, they didn't take on board any of the comments with regard to the issues with the site.

Questions:

Q: What did you ask the developer of Earnley Concourse?

A: We explained the issues with the site, including the location, the tree preservation orders, the nature reserve. Therefore, we were very surprised when we received the information on the masterplan for the site. Following our discussions, we were expecting a development of approximately 15 good quality houses, the north east corner of the site adjacent to the church becoming a village green and with the Gate House becoming a small meeting room, cycle path connecting the Medmerry Nature Reserve to the existing footpath 2 and upgrading it to a cycle path.

Q: Did you speak to them about cars as the current proposal is likely to generate 80 cars?

A: Yes, we raised the issue of the lack of footpaths and public transport and the likely reliance on cars. When the Concourse was operational it had parking for 38 cars and 2 buses.

Q: How many houses are there in the core area of Earnley currently?

A: Approximately 20.

Q: What is happening to the area of land the Parish Council bid for?

A: The highest priority for the Parish Council is a focal point/hall. Currently the developer has not made any proposals for this area of land.

The Chairman advised that the developers were holding a consultation event on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March which will be open from 2.00-7.00 at Bracklesham Barn and urged residents to attend and submit their views.

#### **4. PRESENTATION BY JANE REEVE, MEDMERRY WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE GROUP**

The Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands (FLOW) Project is funded by the Lottery. The project has been set up to understand the drainage on the Manhood Peninsula, the peninsula has 100km of drainage ditches which are being mapped and surveyed to understand how the ditches work. The ultimate aim of the project is to reduce the flood risk and increase the wildlife in the area.

The Tithe Maps have provided very useful information on the ditches and the ponds of the past, often the areas that have been flooded you will find that ditches have been filled in or ponds are silted up.

The project is all about natural flood management and the group are currently managing in excess of 40 sites.

A full copy of the report for Earnley can be found at: <http://mwhg.org.uk/projects-and-groups/flow-project/flow-reports/>

Earnley as with all other areas is under a great deal of pressure with regard to development and a way that you can help to mitigate the development is to participate in recording wildlife in the area via <https://brc.ac.uk/irecord/> , as it will assist with proving that the area is wildlife rich. This can be carried out just in your garden, when you are out for a walk. It is important to include things like robins, sparrow and blackbirds as these are declining.

#### **5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Earnley Parish Council

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_